



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held November 18, 2003, the Board took the following action:

S-1

The following item was called up for consideration:

Report by County Counsel and the Director of Health Services on the County's inspection and regulatory authority relating to the health, safety and maintenance of restrooms and cafeterias at public schools within the County's jurisdiction.

John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D., Chief of Operations for Public Health, Rocky Delgadillo, Los Angeles City Attorney, Tim Buresh, Chief Operating Officer of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Jim Delker, Acting Deputy Chief, Facilities Executive of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Michael Eugene, Business Services Manager for the Los Angeles Unified School District, and Mary Johnson addressed the Board.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"In late January 2003, Channel 2 KCBS ran a special assignment report, revealing the results of unannounced inspection visits to nearly 50 public schools' restrooms that reflected unsanitary conditions that were deplorable. The Board requested reports from County Counsel and the Director of Health Services regarding the cost and legal authority for conducting inspections and enforcement activities at public school facilities. County Counsel reported that the County does not have enforcement authority but that the County does have authority to make the inspections.

"The Board supported legislation to address this issue, and although Senate Bill 892 (Murray) and Assembly Bill 1124 (Nunez) were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, they do not include any local enforcement authority or funding for local enforcement.

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“Officials from the City of Los Angeles are looking at the possibility of creating a Building and Safety inspection program for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) schools and have asked if the County Department of Health Services Environmental Health staff could participate. The details of this proposal have not yet been determined. It is essential that the Department of Health Services work collaboratively with City officials, LAUSD, and the County Office of Education to ensure sanitary conditions at public schools’ restrooms.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Director of Health Services was instructed to:

1. Inform Los Angeles City officials that when the City proceeds with a pilot inspection program, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services will send inspectors to accompany their staff for a pilot program;
2. Meet with Los Angeles Unified School District and the Los Angeles County Office of Education staff to develop a cooperatively funded school restroom inspection program; and
3. Report back to the Board within 30 days with the results of the meetings.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel